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Bangalore Mirror

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Journey to save planet

City teen gets set to set foot in Antarctica

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A standard XII boy from Bengaluru has been chosen to be a part of a climate change expedition to Antarctica. The Climate Force Antarctic Expedition is scheduled for March 17-28. Organisers said the expedition will be more than just carbon neutral but in fact 'carbon negative'. Through various carbon capture/offsetting strategic partnerships, the expedition's projected emissions will be offset by 1.25 times.

Bengaluru boy Vishnu Lakshman is preparing on two fronts — learning about the challenges of the climate emergency and how it impacts different geographies. He is also talking to various people to understand the kind of activities he can undertake to spread awareness about the climate crisis and make an impact.

"Environment management is an important subject in school. I had been exploring related areas and came across Robert Swan's TED talk, especially when he said that the greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it. It was very inspiring. Then, I got a chance to meet

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

After 13 years and various processes later, People's Biodiversity Register for Bengaluru is yet to materialise as latest of committees hasn't formally convened

LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

Biodiversity committees must for local self-governing bodies

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A committee set up two years ago to monitor and document Bengaluru's biodiversity in a People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) has never met officially till date, BM's found out.

The five-member Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) was created in January 2020. According to the members, not even a single meeting has been convened by the authorities concerned.

"We have conducted a couple of internal meetings since the BMC's formulation in 2020 but no work on the PBR has happened yet. We have been asking for a formal meeting to be convened soon. Initially, things got delayed due to covid-19; there appears to be a lack of interest too on the part of authorities concerned," said a member of the BMC.

According to the Biological Diversity Act (BDA), 2002, a BMC must be constituted by every local self-governing institution in rural and urban areas. The committee should then create a PBR, a repository of biodiversity and traditional knowledge of local biological resources.

The idea behind a PBR is to ensure conservation and sustainable use of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Musical odyssey

Just like music, women have shown that they can be powerful and soulful at the same time. IME invites you for an enthralling evening of music by Sthree Thaal Tharang, an all-women Indian Classical percussion ensemble led by Ghata Maestro Sukanya Ramgopal, supported by Indumati and CNR Rao Endowment.

The musical evening will showcase some of the most talented women artists in Indian Classical Music. Don't miss the chance to experience one of the most powerful Indian Classical Percussion Ensemble.

Where: Indian Music Experience Museum, Brigade Millenium Rd, JP Nagar 7th Phase
When: March 13, 6pm

02 Finance talk for women

Catch a special session exclusively for women that aims at making them financially empowered. This is being organised by 'Millennium Mams', the brainchild of Mr Bishnu Dhanuka and Mr Sanjay Bhuwania, two respected and accomplished entrepreneurs. The objective is to empower women through financial literacy with extensive training on investing in the stock markets. The session aims at discussing the Ukraine war and its impact on the markets and their own investment strategy and are also discussing electronic vehicles.

Venue: Taj West End, Tamarind Hall, Race Course Rd
Time: March 14, 12.15pm
Tickets: 9343866333/ 9845029699

03 Talent hunt

Orion Uptown Mall is all set to host Saavishkaar: a unique platform conceptualised to help women across all walks of life showcase their talents. Saavishkaar invites women singers, musicians, artists and performers to wow the world with their gifts and skills. The activities include solo & group dance performances, solo singing, spot choreography, exhibitions of handmade crafts, painting and embroidery, fashion, and group activities like antakshari and treasure hunt.

Where: Orion Uptown Mall
When: Registrations till March 10
Register: 9902346516/ kalpavrikshabangalore13@gmail.com

Kids, go check out that camp

Summer classes are the latest hot activity, after a hiatus of two years

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Swimming, music and craftwork are popular among kids

After a hiatus of two years, summer camps and classes are back, with a bang. With children cooped up indoors due to the pandemic, parents are now anxious to get them to go out and brush up on their social and extra-curricular skills. Many organisers and teachers are also looking forward to making a quick buck from these sessions.

For the past decade, Narendra S, a choreographer has been organising summer camps where he teaches western dance, folk arts, film singing, drama, fun games, drawing, painting, and craftwork. At his sessions, kids love to participate during summer breaks. "This year, hopefully, we will be able to organise summer camps."

Many organisations are planning to conduct summer camps in two batches: April and May before the children are back to school.

So, what makes summer camps so special? Divya R, an educationist, said, "The whole year, the students are restricted to academics with hardly any time for fun. The last two years have been very bad for kids."

She adds that with no sports activities, many of the kids had become obese, and these summer camps might help change that. "I hope that the kids will get a chance to make a lot of new friends. Besides this, we are planning to teach them a lot of fun and educational activities which are missing in school."

Some of the popular music activities include: tabla, keyboard, guitar, drums, flutes, Carnatic and Hindustani music, karate, Bharatnatyam, aerobics etc.

The economic boost is another reason behind their popularity -- welcome news to most after a financially draining pandemic. Many of the summer camps charge anywhere between Rs 2,500 to Rs 10,000 and more per student depending on the activity chosen.

Many teachers can also make a quick buck by organising these camps. Geeta Gopal, a musician said, "Musicians were the worst hit during pandemic. Earlier, we used to lead our livelihood by singing in orchestras -- a common feature at weddings or Ganeshotsav/Kannada Rajyotsava."

> **With no physical activities, kids had become obese, and camps may change that**
>
> –Divya R, an educationist

However, in the last two years, there were several restrictions and they had no shows. She adds that she hopes to earn a livelihood now.

The fun factor at these camps makes them even more popular, especially among parents. Nandini Gowda, a homemaker, said that in her childhood, summer holidays meant visiting her native place. That has changed now as her parents live in the same city as her. "So, we always believe that it should be a bit of fun plus learning."

Sports training centres are hoping to get good attendance from students. Gajendra R, a sports coach said that he used to get close to 100 students for summer cricket coaching camp. He had invested a lot for the equipment. "Now, we hope to teach many budding cricketers."

Faraz R, who owns a swimming pool, spoke on similar lines. "Swimming is mostly preferred in summer and we used to train many kids. We need to understand that sports should always be encouraged as it helps kids and teens stay healthy."

A safer commute to schools, for kids

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Safe-crossing areas were demarcated & walking zones were painted by volunteers

To make school zones safer for children and reduce the number of road accidents, SaveLIFE Foundation, in association with Jana Urban Space Foundation, launched the 'Safe School Project' on Wednesday.

"This project aims to provide a template to city governments, urban bodies and other stakeholders to make commuting to school safer for children across India. As part of our road safety initiatives, we conducted research on 'safe commute to schools' in 14 cities across the country. This was done to understand the constraints children face while they cycle or walk to school," said Karuna Raina, Director, Public Policy at SaveLIFE Foundation.

The trial event was conducted at Peniel Nursery, Primary and High School in Ayyappanagar. A one-kilometre network was selected near the school to redesign through various interventions. To begin with, a plaza and the drop-off bay in front of the school were reclaimed, auto stands around the campus were demarcated, safe crossing areas were created by upgrading the intersections and walking zones meant exclusively for pedestrians and children were painted.

"A child, on average, is roughly about 95-100 cm in height. At this height, threats that they perceive while walking on a busy road are very different compared to an adult," said Raina, adding that they have managed to reduce the risk exposure distance and risk exposure time for children by about 45 per cent and 35 per cent respectively.

According to Verlakshmi K, principal, Peniel Nursery, Primary and High School, these simple interventions will reduce the distance for children significantly, with the help of bollards. "The road in front of the school had a concrete divider to stop wrong-way driving. However, it was a no-crossing divider, forcing the kids to walk or cycle extra distance before they could reach the school."

The endeavor was supported by the Bengaluru traffic police.

Asking for address, man gets too close for comfort

Woman was strolling near her house when pervert approached her

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A pervert approached a woman under the pretext of asking for an address and attempted to kiss her in the middle of the road and fled after she raised an alarm on Sunday night in BTM 1st stage.

The 23-year-old woman, an employee with a private firm and a resident of BTM 1st stage in Madiwala, had stepped out of her apartment around 10:10 pm on Sunday to have a cup of tea when the incident took place. She has filed a complaint with the Madiwala police on Monday against the unknown person. She told the police that she was alone and had walked back to the apartment after drinking tea and was walking near the apartment gate to get some fresh air.

"A man approached me to ask about an address he was looking for and as I tried to direct him, he came closer to me and attempted to kiss me. I panicked and immediately pushed him away and raised an alarm so he ran away from the spot," she told the police.

Police said that the accused ran away within seconds even before the public and security guards rushed to her help.

A senior police officer said that the man under the pretext of asking for an address went closer to her and tried to kiss her.

Man harasses woman on stroll in BTM 1st Stage

A man approached me to ask about an address he was looking for and as I tried to direct him, he came closer to me and attempted to kiss me. I pushed him away

–The complainant

"There were very few people around on the road and he decided to approach her. She was alert and immediately pushed him away. We are examining the CCTV footage to identify the accused. As he had not used any vehicle and had come by foot, we suspect he could be residing nearby," he said.

Madiwala police have registered a case and have booked him under IPC section 354 (Outrage of woman's modesty). Further investigation is underway.

Fire at commercial building causes panic

Businessmen, shopkeepers and residents got a mini scare in the busy area of Gandhi Nagar in Upparpet, after thick smoke engulfed the area for sometime due to a fire that broke out on the terrace of a hotel. The rooftop storeroom of a commercial building in Gandhi Nagar got gutted due to an accidental fire that broke out on Wednesday afternoon which the police suspect was because of the heated tin roof and the combustible material stored underneath, the fire officials said.

The billowing smoke and the fire was noticed by Police Sub-Inspector Ravi, who was passing by. He alerted the fire control room immediately. He then sounded an alarm and evacuated the people in the entire building before the fire tender reached the spot. Two fire tenders rushed to the spot and put out the fire. Electrical equipment and furniture stored in the room was gutted according to the fire officials. The police and the fire personnel are probing to ascertain the exact cause of the fire accident. There were no casualties and officials are awaiting FSLreport. **–BMB**

Fire accident at Gandhinagar

Seeking help from Home Minister

Unable to meet the city police commissioner for the second time due to his tight and busy schedules, Tamil Nadu's Religious and Charitable Endowment minister, P Sekar Babu's daughter, Jayakalyani, met with the Karnataka State Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, on Wednesday, seeking protection from her father and other family members.

The newly wedded couple, Jayakalyani (24) and Sathish (27) after meeting the Additional Police Commissioner, in the afternoon on Wednesday, had appealed to the Home minister, seeking protection for their lives. Jayakalyani, an MBBS graduate informed that she had got married to Sathish, against the wishes of her parents.

Convicted for sexual assault on 6-yr-old

A 46-year-old former Hindi teacher was convicted under POCSO on Wednesday by a fast track court for sexually assaulting a six-year-old Class I girl inside the school premises in 2014. The court sentenced him to 20 years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) and also slapped a fine of Rs 4 lakh to be paid to the victim. The convict identified as Jaishankar was teaching Hindi subject at a well known school.

The convict had taken the child to the school's washroom and assaulted her twice in 2014. The six-year-old girl returned home and complained of a severe stomach ache. Her parents took her to a doctor, who after an examination, informed the parents that she had been sexually assaulted.

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Varthur Lake area blazes on

Fourth fire in six years highlights need to equip marshals for burning crises

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A file pic of the fire in 2019. Inset: The lake premises on fire on Monday

Varthur Lake, which is under development, suffered a fire at the lake premises after miscreants burned dry grass around the water body. It took over five hours to douse the fire. This is the fourth time the lake premises has caught fire.

Marshals noticed smoke emanating from a part of the lake on Monday around 5.30 pm. They tried to douse it but the fire ended up spreading across three acres of land.

Residents saw the fire and informed the fire and emergency services. The fire team arrived between 6 and 6.30 pm and started to extinguish the fire. However, it took time to calm the fire down.

Residents usually assume workers for the desilting work at Varthur Lake or to trim grass show up at the lake. But at times, miscreants arrive at the spot at light something near the dry grass to cause the fire.

Jagadish Reddy from Varthur Rising said, "The wind was at a high speed causing the dry grass to burn... We don't really know what caused the fire, but it sure looks like it was man made. This part of the lake does not see much human activity, hence we are yet to find the reason for the fire. Over three to four acres of land got burned. It was worrisome. It is damaging to the ecosystem."

The incident highlighted, the need of the hour was to provide marshals with emergency equipment for crises like these.

"There are over 22 marshals at the lake. If fires like this break out, the marshals should be provided with necessary emergency equipment. Marshals are not even provided with water. They have to carry their own water and other basic amenities while patrolling," said Reddy.

He said, so far 54 CCTVs are installed at the premises of the lake, while only 22 are in a functioning condition. If all the cameras work, it could be easier to locate miscreants in such case, he said.

In 2019, the area around the lake caught fire, burning a large area of land. In 2017, the lake caught fire twice. Once because people burned garbage near the lake's inlet and the reason for the other time is unknown.

In February 2017, a fire was reported in Bellandur Lake too. Trapped gases and chemicals in the lake were believed to have caused the fire.

Lake still in a bad condition

On the development front of Varthur Lake, residents said, sewage treatment plants (STPs) are being built near the lake and yet sewage has been flowing into the diversion channels.

"The National Green Tribunal in its orders had stated that BWSSB must arrest sewage upto 97 per cent by March 31, 2021... BWSSB stated, they have done so up to 100 per cent. However, we can see sewage flowing into the diversion channels. Over 150 to 200 MLTD still flows into the diversion canal," said Reddy.

Further, while dumping of garbage near the lake premises has stopped, people are still throwing waste in nearby canals and rajkaluves which means the trash eventually ends up in the lake.

"Of 54 CCTV cameras, only 22 are in a functioning condition. It will be easier to detect miscreants if all of them work

–Jagdish Reddy, Varthur Rising

Paper discs to pick hydrogen peroxide

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a paper-based sensor for detecting even tiny volumes of hydrogen peroxide.

This chemical is used widely in household and healthcare products like hand sanitiser as a disinfectant, in rocket fuel as a propellant, and is also found in biological cells.

The technique they used involves preparing a gel from a solution containing a specially designed molecule, treated with a liquid that has hydrogen peroxide, and air-drying them on a thin paper disc about 0.45 cm in diameter. The paper disc emits green light when placed under a UV lamp, only in the presence of hydrogen peroxide. The intensity of the light was found to be directly proportional to the concentration of hydrogen peroxide.

"You can actually visualise this green emission (photoluminescence) with the naked eye. All you need is a simple UV light source," explains Arnab Dutta, PhD student in the Department of Organic Chemistry and first author of the study published in ACS sensors.

Because the paper disc is low-cost, biodegradable and easy to use, it could serve as a powerful tool in low-resource settings, even for testing biological fluids like blood. Detecting hydrogen peroxide efficiently is also crucial in other fields; peroxide-based explosives, for example, can be traced using hydrogen peroxide which is sometimes used as a starting material.

IISc researchers say their paper-based sensor can detect even tiny volumes of the chemial widely used in household items like sanitisers

When the researchers used their technique to randomly test five different hand sanitiser brands, they found that only three of them contained the level of hydrogen peroxide mandated by the World Health Organisation - 0.125 per cent. A fourth appeared to have much lower than 0.125 per cent and one had almost zero hydrogen peroxide.

Uday Maitra's (Professor in the Department of Organic Chemistry and senior author of the study) lab has been working on developing several 'sensitiser' molecules that turn on the photoluminescence of elements called lanthanides in the presence of specific chemicals or compounds. They have previously developed paper-based sensors for detecting specific antioxidants in green tea - and thereby testing its quality - as well as sensors for various enzymes.

The sensitiser molecule they designed in this study enables a metal called terbium to emit green light under a UV lamp. When the sensitiser is combined with a masking agent, the green light vanishes. When hydrogen peroxide is added to this combination, it unmasks the sensitiser molecule, making it glow green once again. "The way we designed the mask, that is where the thinking process comes in," says Maitra. "The molecule we have designed is very specifically unmasked by hydrogen peroxide."

Currently, the team is working on cutting down the reaction time and developing a small portable device where the detection can be done in a more automated manner. "We are in touch with a start-up company in Chennai. We have a few prototypes... to quantify the amount of hydrogen peroxide."

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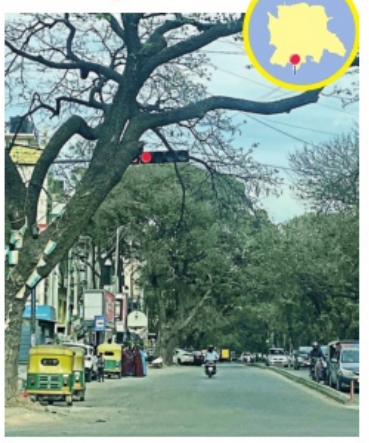
Debris danger

Tavarekere

The pavement near the village hypermarket is covered with debris. This is dangerous for pedestrians.

Measure for safety

Indiranagar



The countdown timer and the traffic light are not very visible at the intersection of CMH Road and 100 Feet Road. The authorities concerned must look into it to prevent safety issues.

Pathetic

Richards Town

The authorities concerned must repair the pavement on Armstrong Road. This sidewalk is used by the students of Clarence High who may get hurt if the path isn't fixed soon.

Post-covid travel scenes: No place like a homestay

People prefer to stay in open spaces and in middle of nature

After the pandemic started, many tourists now prefer to stay in homestays. This resulted in more than 300 homestays getting added in the State. In the third wave of covid-19, over 300 homestays started business. More than 600 applications were received by the tourism department to start homestays. Tourists also prefer to spend their time in the home stays as it has a home-like atmospher and there is no tax for it.

There are 2,855 official homestays in the state. They are many more unofficial ones. There are 800 homestays in Madikeri, 350 in Hassan, 600 in Chikkamagaluru, 320 in Uttara Kannada, 250 in Ballari. Dakshina Kannada that is known for its tourism and natural beach tourism, has 63 homestays. In Mangaluru, there are more than 550 homestays.

A homestay owner in Chikkamagaluru, Uttam Hulikere, said, "After the first wave of covid, we got good bookings. But, now we are getting zero bookings. We are following covid restrictions and are supplying food to the rooms. But, overall occupancy is low. We live amidst nature. Many have invested the money earned from their home stays to the plantations. It is an alternative income source for us."

Ranjit S, a techie from Bengaluru, said people were not just looking at homestays for themselves but also preferring those that allow their pets.

In the third wave of covid-19, over 300 new homestays started functioning to meet the demand. Business is slowly picking up

There has been an increased query from pet lovers for those homestays/resorts that are accommodative of pets. Homestay owners say that they are slowly seeing the demand. A homestay owner said, "Now, with people travelling, especially revenge tourism picking up, the demand is also growing up slowly."

Another homestay owner said the restrictions during first and second waves continued for months. "The long lockdowns had wrecked tourism business. We take all the precautions while welcoming tourists and ensure physical distancing and other norms. The lockdown had affected us financially and also led to job loss. Now, with the demand picking up, we are employing more locals."

—Prakash VL

Attacked & left to die

83-yr-old woman battles for life after being attacked and robbed

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An 83-year-old woman, who was found lying in a pool of blood in Malleswaram 18th cross with her throat slit, is currently struggling for her life after an unknown person walked inside her house and snatched her gold chain.

Nalini Nagaraj sustained a grievous injury and is currently undergoing treatment in a private hospital. Her daughter, Aarathi has filed a complaint with the Malleswaram police on Monday. She told the police that her mother has been staying alone for the past 15 years and on Monday afternoon around 2 pm, she received a call from her mother's neighbour who informed her that her mother had sustained two cuts on her neck and was lying on the floor inside her house. She immediately asked them to shift her to the nearby hospital and said she would directly meet them at the hospital. Aarathi told the police that some unknown person has attacked her mother while she was inside the house and has stolen her 50 grams worth gold chain and fled the spot.

A senior officer said that the family suspects it to be chain snatching by an unknown person as she had been assaulted and had sustained injury on her neck. "The house door was open and she was found lying on the food by her neighbour who told us that they did not see anyone entering or exiting the house. We are examining the CCTV camera footage to identify the accused. The accused has stolen only her gold chain and the rest of the gold valuables like ear rings and bangles were untouched. They had also kept cash inside the house. There was no sign of breaking in. We suspect that someone might have seen her sitting inside the house alone and walked inside. The accused might have snatched the chain and fled with the fear of a neighbour rushing in to help. She has been shifted to general ward and she is not able to recollect the incident," said the officer.

"The door was open and neighbours found her lying on the floor. They did not see anyone entering or exiting

Malleswaram police have registered a case under IPC section 397 (Robbery/ Dacoity).

A report on a senior couple's murder on Feb 9

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Fertility frozen in time

More women opt for egg-freezing procedure due to multiple benefits

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With more and more women wishing to focus on their careers before getting married and starting a family, egg-freezing is becoming an increasingly popular option. Doctors say that the number of queries has increased over the years as women realise that as they get older, their fertility decreases and the chances of them becoming pregnant later also reduces.

What is egg-freezing?

A woman's eggs harvested from her ovaries are frozen and stored for later use. Whenever she is ready to get pregnant, the frozen eggs can later be combined with sperm in a lab and be implanted in the woman's uterus, explains Dr Aviva Pinto Rodrigues, Fertility Consultant, Nova IVF Fertility. Dr Rodrigues adds that a woman's ability to get pregnant reduces as she grows older, especially as she reaches her mid-30s and early 40s. "We are getting almost two to three enquiries every month now and mostly one out of them opt for egg-freezing. A lot of them choose social egg-freezing, where women do not have a medical condition but want to undergo the procedure due to aspects like pursuing their career."

Dr Rodrigues adds that many companies even pay for the procedure, if their employees choose to go for it. Some want to do it for medical reasons, for example women with cancer would want to freeze their eggs, as radiation and chemotherapy would damage their eggs, and this will give them a choice to preserve their fertility, she explains. "Then there are women who prefer being financially and emotionally stable before becoming mothers or they may not have found the right partner yet," she said.

According to Dr Priyanka Mohan, Consultant, Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Fertility Specialist & Reproductive Medicine Expert, Motherhood Hospitals, there has been a 10-to 15-per-cent rise in the number of procedures to what it was five years ago. In a year there are about 12 to 15 women who would opt for egg-freezing, she says.

"Women face a lot of pressure when it comes to marriage and childbearing. Though egg-freezing started as a procedure to help women with medical conditions like cancer to preserve their fertility, social egg-freezing has given women the freedom of choice to opt for the procedure as a personal choice and not due to any health condition. There are also many women who choose to be single mothers and are opting for donor sperm," she added.

Another reason behind the rising popularity can be attributed to the rise in infertility worldwide. It is estimated that one in every six couples in India suffers from subfertility, Dr Arunima Haldar, Consultant, IVF and Reproductive Medicine, Manipal Hospitals, explained. "A study published by American society of reproductive medicine in 2014, says that Indian women lose their ovarian reserve six years earlier than their Spanish counterparts. Companies are friendlier nowadays with their women work force and many companies are providing insurance cover for egg-freezing, she said.

Myths, debunked

Many women tend to think if they have their eggs frozen, they will not be able to conceive naturally as their eggs have been removed or the number of eggs has decreased. Dr Mohan clarifies that this is a major misconception. "Egg-freezing does not affect your ovarian reserve. Therefore, the chances of natural conception will not be affected," she said.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is the procedure done?
Step 1: starting FSH and LH injections from second day of your periods for about a period of 10 days
Step 2: egg extraction
Step 3: vitrification of the eggs

Who can undergo it?
Any woman who is not ready for a child, either because of financial constraints or has not found a partner or is unsure about her partner

When to undergo?
Ideal age is to freeze eggs before 35 years. Younger the age, more is the number of eggs obtained, hence more is the chances of pregnancy. Also, the eggs' quality is better when the woman is younger.

What are the tests?
AMH: this is a hormone to know the current status of eggs or the egg reserve.

Fertility ultrasonography
General routine tests required for any procedure

CONS: Dr Haldar says that egg-freezing is a great opportunity to preserve your fertility. However, since eggs are single-celled structures, on warming, they have a lesser chance of survival than embryos which are multicellular. Hence, if you have a stable partner, freezing embryos may be slightly more beneficial.

B'luru teen on climate expedition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the alumni of the 2018 Climate Force Expedition to Antarctica; their experience motivated me to pursue the expedition," 17-year-old Vishnu told BM.

For selection, Vishnu had to write a number of essays and give many interviews. "I had to write four essays. One was to introduce myself and my background while the others were regarding my interest in the expedition and climate change. In the second stage, I wrote two more essays regarding my plan of action post the expedition. Lastly, there was an in-person video interview where I talked about my achievements so far and about the expedition," he said, adding that the process was a very intensive learning process for him and helped him to learn to articulate his passion for the environment and convince others of his abilities to learn and contribute to the community.

In an email, Robert Charles Swan (OBE), founder of 2041 Foundation that organises the expedition, said, "I have spent several years of my life in wonderful India and some of that time in the city of Bengaluru. Young people in India have to realise that the environmental future of the country will look bleak unless they show leadership on issues such as renewable energy, waste, recycling and use of resources.

To be sustainable, these issues must be part of the world of business, they must create employment and jobs. Vishnu will become one of the leaders that we need. By coming to the Antarctic he will gain a story and the confidence to engage his peers on his return and make a great success of his life. This is why I have chosen him."

Vishnu is also training on the physical front to stay fit in the cold continent. "I have had an intense workout schedule for the last 30 days to make sure I am physically fit for the Antarctic climate," the teen said.

"First, Vishnu will proceed to Ushuaia (Argentina) via flight and from there he will be travelling via ship to Antarctica. The ship journey is 36 hours while the flight journey is around 25 hours," he said adding, "The expedition is slated for 12 days which includes Climate Change Education, continental landing in Antarctica where the candidates walk among Gentoo penguins and Leopard seals and later take part in sustainability training to learn the economics of sustainability in multinational organisations. He is also likely to get a chance to be a part of the ocean-level exploration on a zodiac-cruise and spot Minke whales. There will be other programmes like leadership development where the candidates will learn how to overcome adversity."

Premalatha B, Vishnu's mother, a health professional, said the challenge was to raise Rs 30 lakh for this expedition and the family was raising money through crowdfunding and corporate funding.

The lives of others

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

biological resources while securing equitable sharing of benefits that come from these resources.

Notably, the first BMC was formulated in 2009 to investigate and document information for Bengaluru's maiden biodiversity register. Although the committee collated the required data and shared it with the Karnataka Biodiversity Board (KBB), experts said a gap of 13 years to update the register is long drawn. "Information to prepare Bengaluru's first PBR was submitted to KBB in 2009 by the then BMC. But, it was never upgraded. The register should be updated at least once every two to three years for Bengaluru. There are a plethora of developmental activities. We must update the PBR regularly," said Akshay Heblikar, member, BMC and founder of ECO Watch. Nandini N, professor at the department of environmental science, Bengaluru University, and head of Bengaluru's BMC agreed. "Looking at the current scenario of developmental activities, this is too long a gap to not update the register," said Nandini.

According to committee members, just when some work on documenting biodiversity at Madiwala Lake began in 2020, the deputy conservator of forest, BBMP, who was heading the committee retired, halting the process altogether.

Sole PBR

The data for Bengaluru's maiden PBR was furnished by the then BMC with the help of volunteers from over 20 institutions, in 2009. But the document is not available on KBB's website, rendering the exercise futile.

"In the absence of PBR there is no way of knowing the changes in the city's biodiversity in the last 13 years or so. The PBR should be available on the KBB website for everyone to access. Technically, it should be available for people to understand what a PBR is," said Heblikar.

According to the most recent report submitted by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) on the status of BMC formation and PBR preparation in Karnataka, while there is ample documentation of traditional knowledge and biodiversity, most of this information is kept under lock and key. The report cites the absence of a clear policy on sharing of information and patenting issues as reasons.

"With the current developmental activities, this is too long a gap to not update the register
– Nandini N, head, BMC

Local participation

Experts said PBRs have become nothing more than an exercise in listing species and information on biodiversity. There is a lack of community participation, defeating the purpose. Not only are we lagging in updating this important document and keeping it accessible, but the task of making the PBR has also been given to a handful of experts and NGOs, restricting the role of resident citizenry to data collection.

"We had suggested ward-wise documentation of biodiversity to ensure participation of the local community. While we cannot involve every single person in the process, we should zero in on people with the right background and appoint them as ward coordinators. We should then train these volunteers who in turn would reach out to schools and colleges. The BMC should just play the role of a verifying agency. This model will create awareness in neighbourhood communities. However, we could not take it up further," added Heblikar.

Fund crunch

To prepare PBRs, BMCs require funds. While this document is prepared at gram panchayat, taluk and district level, the fund set aside is meagre. In Karnataka, an amount of Rs 25,000 is reserved for gram panchayat level PBR, Rs 80,000 is allocated for taluks and Rs 2 lakh is set apart for districts. Experts said the aforementioned allocations are inadequate to prepare good quality PBRs.

"A meagre Rs 25,000 is sanctioned for preparing the PBR in a gram panchayat — the amount is not released on time too. This process should be centralised whereby the KBB should collect the money from the gram panchayats and hand it over to the investigators directly," said TV Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc.

Ray of hope for Ukraine returnees

Govt mulls increase in medical seats to help medical students

With hundreds of medical professionals returning to the States due to the crisis in Ukraine, there is a question mark over continuation of medical education.

There is a lot of pressure on the State Government to take measures to accommodate the state's medical colleges. There are also discussions about increasing medical seats on the basis of doctors and patients ratio, infrastructure facilities in medical colleges among others. Meanwhile, the parents and students are demanding the Government provide opportunities to study in the colleges of Karnataka who returned from Ukraine.

Thousands of students who went to Ukraine for studying medical courses now fell into distress due to the Russia-Ukraine war.

There are around 500 students from the State who returned from Ukraine. More people are struck in war; the Government is trying to bring them back safely.

Due to the exorbitant fees charged by private medical colleges in the State, students go to Poland and Ukraine for quality and affordable medical education. Hence, there is a demand for increasing the number of medical seats.

There are 64 medical colleges and deemed universities in the State. In 2021-2022, the National Testing Agency filled 9,845 medical seats. So, there is a proposal for increasing the number of medical seats.

Some colleges do not have infrastructure facilities. This to be addressed while increasing the seats. By 2025, the Government plans to open medical colleges in all the districts of the State.

Health Minister Dr.K Sudhakar said, "I have discussed with senior officials for the education of students returning from Ukraine. We will also discuss with the National Medical Commission too before making any decisions."

The Director of Medical Education Directorate Dr PG Girish said, "The government is discussing increase of medical seats for retaining the students who were willing to go outside for medical education. But, the colleges must fulfill infrastructure facilities for this.

Inchara Raj, a medical student who returned from Ukraine, said, "The government must provide education to those who returned from Ukraine in India on humanitarian grounds."

Legislator UT Khader said, "NEET is not providing equal opportunities to the students of the State. In the top 1,000 ranks, our students can't even get into the top 50. It is better to restart the CET system of seat distribution."

– Prakash VL

'Tricolour saved my life'

Walking with Indian tricolour helped many Ukrainian returnees to reach borders. Manoj Kumar C, a medico who returned from Ukraine recently said, "I was studying MBBS in Kharkiv. We were told to reach the nearby posts. We had to walk at least 20 km and it was a harrowing experience. Death of a fellow Kannadiga Naveen had shocked us. As we were walking, we could hear bombardment. We were holding the tricolour as we were walking and in a way, it saved our lives. I finally reached the Romanian border and from there reached India and then to my native Bagalkot. Now, I am not sure whether I need to return or not. I request the State Government to help us study here."

No upper age limit for NEET

TaiThe National Medical Commission has removed the upper age limit for those appearing in NEET-Under Graduate 2022 exam, officials said on Wednesday.

The upper age cap put by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in 2017 was 25 years for unreserved candidates and 30 years for reserved candidates.

In a notification, the CBSE had stated that "the upper age limit for NEET-UG is 25 years as on the date of examination with relaxation of five years for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC category".

"I would like to inform that it has been decided in the 4th NMC meeting held on 21st Oct, 2021 that there should not be any fixed upper age limit for appearing in the NEET-UG examination. Therefore, the information bulletin may be modified accordingly. "Further, the process for official notification to suitably amend the Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 1997 to this effect has been initiated," a communication sent by Dr Pulkesh Kumar, Secretary NMC to Dr Devvrat, Office of Senior Director, National Testing Agency, on March 9 said.

– PTI

Another feather in doc's cap

Prominent nephrologist and Chairman of Manipal Hospitals Dr Sudarshan Ballal has been facilitated with a doctorate of science honouris causa degrees (ScD/DScin science) by the Rani Channamma University today during the 9th Annual Convocation at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi.

Dr Ballal set up the first training program in Nephrology in Karnataka in 1999 and performed the first cadaver kidney transplantation in the state. The doctorate of science is obtained after satisfactory evaluation of knowledge, research accomplishments, and a doctoral defense offered by only a few prestigious institutions in India. The university presented 86 PhDs, with nine students receiving gold medals at the convocation.

The doctorate was bestowed on Dr Ballal by Governor Thawarchand Gehlot in the presence of delegates.

Birth anniversary date change requested

Khaiwara Kshetra's Dharmadhikari Dr MR Jayaram met Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and former chief minister BS Yediyurappa on Wednesday and thanked them for announcing the birth anniversary celebrations of Sadguru Yoginareyana Tataiah in the State budget.

Bommai, during his maiden budget, had announced that the State will officially celebrate the birth anniversary of Sadguru Tataiah. During the meeting, Dr Jayaram requested the chief minister to change the birth anniversary date from March 27 to the full moon day of the Phalguna Month of the Hindu calendar.

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Sextortion menace grips India

Big-wigs and common man alike falling prey to sleazy racket

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Nondescript towns in Rajasthan and Haryana like Mewat, Bharatpur, Alwar are spinning a diabolical revolution. School-dropout teenage children and their uneducated but cunning masterminds run sextortion rackets that span across several countries and earn millions. Police officers, politicians, businessmen, doctors have all fallen prey to their machinations. India witnesses more than 500 cases of sextortion daily (less than 0.5% are registered as FIRs), making it the sextortion capital of the world.

One of its most tragic case occurred in March 2021 when a 26-year-old MBA student in Bengaluru committed suicide after being traumatised with incessant extortion, while sex chatting with a pseudo profile.

What is sextortion?

Sextortion is a malicious online crime whereby the cyber criminals threaten to distribute or 'make viral' ,private, sensitive and sexually explicit material pertaining to the victim, if he is not furnished with sexual favours, images of sexual nature or money.

Modus operandi

The sextortionists zero in on relatively affluent men aged 45 to 60 years. Weeks or even months of digital reconnaissance missions are launched to identify targets. Fake profiles of attractive woman are created. Friend requests are sent from these fake but realistic profiles to identified targets. The requests are from overtly friendly and seemingly attractive females in platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Tinder, dating or matrimonial sites.

At this stage the technological aspects are kept in backburner and a psychological technique called 'social engineering' is employed to gain the trust of the gullible victim. Social

More than 500 cases being recorded daily in the country

engineering refers to psychological tricks used by culprits to manipulate victims through deception and fraud.

The scammers then entice and induce them to indulge in video calls of sexual orientation, usually the female accomplices are indoctrinated to indulge in lewd video calls and record them using inbuilt or downloaded recording apps. These clips become instruments of extortion.

Evolution of sextortion

From 2006 to 2022 extortion has incarnated into following four avatars

First gen Sextortion 1.0: Primarily women were victims perpetrated by estranged lovers who threatened to release their intimate pictures as 'revenge porn'. Primitive recording devices were used.

Second gen Sextortion 2.0 : Fake profiles of attractive girls were created by male scammers and a make-believe world was created with use of technological tools like voice modulation apps, which converted male voice into female voice over VOIP calls. Money mule bank accounts(bank accounts opened with forged documentation), were used to demand ransom, sexting over WhatsApp followed by strip video calls were used to honey trap victims. Screen recording, video editing, morphing apps, also emerged in this phase.

Third Gen Sextortion 3.0: Male extortionists started employing and training beautiful girls to entrap victims. This catapulted sextortion to an organised crime syndicate status. Money mule bank accounts were supplanted by crypto currency wallets, which provided higher degree of impunity and anonymity.

Fourth Gen Sextortion 4.0: Latest phase, where there is no need to lure a victim or employ females to honey trap . 'Deep-fake' and 'Deep-nude' technologies have ensured that anyone can be made a victim.

The writer is an IPS officer of 2000 batch and is presently posted as Special IGP Maharashtra Cyber Department and has originally written this for TOI

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, Mr. Syed Shoiab and Mrs. Sadiya Bakhtawar, R/0 #175, White Apartments, 5th Main Road, 9th Cross, 2nd Block, H.B.R Layout Bengaluru-43. We have Changed our son name From Mohammed Shahid to Syed Mohammed Shahid. Vide Affidavit Dtd 09-03-22 Sworn Before Notary N. Kanchivara daraju Bangalore

I, GLADES ESTHER D/o Rajendran Yessian residing at No.27, Wisama Cottage, Near Telephone Exchange, Bhoopsandra, Bangalore-560094 have changed my name to GLADES ESTHER RAJENDRAN vide affidavit dated 09.03.2022 sworn before notary B.S Padma Prasad, Bangalore-560009.

I, RAMESH NAIK.U S/o Umla Naik, R/at No.147, Iyyanahalli, Chikjajur, Chitradurga-577523 today camp at United Pharma, Thanisandra, Bengaluru-560077, have changed my name to ABDUL REHAMAN vide affidavit dated:1/3/2022 Before Notary Shaik Mahaboob Bangalore.

THE TIMES GROUP
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I, KRISHNAVENI, R/at #88, Nagalakshmi Nalaya, 1st Floor,KSFC Layout, 2nd Main,Lingarajapuram, Bangalore-84. I Have changed my name to KRISHNAVENI SHIVAKUMAR Vide Affidavit Dated: 10/02/2022. Sworn before Notary: R.Basavaraja, Advocate, Bangalore

I, SAHANA D/o Srinivas Bannigol residing at No.3/A, 6th B Main, 11th Cross, J.P Nagar, 3rd Phase, Bangalore-560078 have changed my name to SAHANA BANNIGOL vide affidavit dated 09.03.2022 sworn before notary B.S Padma Prasad, Bangalore-560009.

I Tija Devi W/O, Kiran Kumar D R/o 47/b, Surabi Layout, yelahanka, Bengaluru, 560064 have changed my name to Thijai Devi for all purposes.

I Pooja Suresh Babu W/O, K M Naveen R/o No 2152/16, Manjunatha Nilaya, D Block Water Road, Sahakarnagar, Bengaluru-560079, Karnataka. have changed my name to Samanvika Suresh Babu for all purposes

I, Komal Harshad Jain W/o Kushagra Desai R/o 102, Dsr Topaz Appt, 7th Main Road Ibblur Village, Bellandur Bangalore-560103 have changed my name to Komal Jain for all purposes.

I Vivek S/O, Mari Swamy Gowda R/o # 1087/1217,e-main,8th Cross, Girinagar Bangalore -560085 have changed my name to Vivek M

I, Sheena Jaison Augustine, W/o Jaison Augustine R/o 147, 6th Cross, Vyshnavi nagar, Kengeri , Bangalore Karnataka 560060, have changed my name to Sheena Jaison for all purposes

I, Amit N Vora R/o C-707, Raheja Park Apartament, Magadi Main Road, Ad Halli, Bangalore - 560079 have changed my minor son's name from Kahill to Kahill A Vora

LOST & FOUND

I, Amarnath P.R. S/o Ramaswamy P.S. R/at No.13, Sonnegowda Layout, Kodigehalli, Sahakarnagar post, Bangalore-560092 lost the absolute sale deed of 2 sites (No.ABL--1--01294--2011--12 CD No. ABLD69, Book No.1 Date:02.07.2011) of the site no, 10 Old Khatha no. 860, New Khatha no 760, 'EI' Block of Sivapriya nagar in survey no. 68 .Bandaganahlli village, (ABL-1--00927--2011--12 CD no. ABLD67 Book #1, Date: 10.06.2011) of DocumentsOld Khatha 1003, NewKhata No:903 and of site no.22 in "EP' Block Sivapriya nagar in survey no.62/3 of Bendaganahalli village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk and complained to Kodigehalli Police Station (GSC No PO1873220600154) date 08.03.2022 in this regard. If it finds to anybody call 8073251773 or contact the above address.

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Narrow escape from being run over by Shatabdi

#KOLAR

Hundreds of train passengers who were standing on the tracks had a fortuitous escape when they missed being run over by a Shatabdi Express in Kolar district of Karnataka on Wednesday.

However, one person died after being run over by the train while two others were seriously injured.

The incident took place at Tekal railway station near Malur in Kolar district. Two passenger trains were stopped at the station to allow the passage of the Shatabdi train.

The trains were stopped on either side of the tracks. The Shatabdi Express going towards Chennai from Mysuru was supposed to pass on the mid-track.

However, hundreds of passengers from the two passenger trains who had gotten down stood on the tracks. As the Shatabdi rushed towards the station, the people gathered on the tracks ran helter skelter and narrowly missed being hit by the train.

Though other people shouted and alerted those on the tracks, one person came under the train and died on the spot.

The identity of the person is yet to be established as the body was totally crushed. The two injured persons have been rushed to a nearby hospital.

The Tekal police and the railway police rushed to the spot after the incident. It is being probed that when the express train was arriving why did the station authorities not alert the people and move them away from the tracks.

-IANS

DKS in Goa to stop poaching bids

#PANAJI

Amid the predictions of a hung Assembly in Goa by the pollsters, Congress has moved its 2022 Assembly poll candidates to a resort to avoid poaching bids by rival parties.

"We have not forced any candidate to stay over (at the resort). They voluntarily decided to stay together," said Sunil Kauthankar, general secretary, Congress, Goa.

The party has brought in its senior leadership, including DK Shivakumar from Karnataka, with the candidates in Bambolim Beach Resort of Goa.

"Not correct to say that we are keeping a hold on our leaders because they have come from other states also (to ensure framing of Congress government)," said Kauthankar.

Congress, which is predicted by the pollsters to be in a close race with the BJP for the seat of power in the state, doesn't want to repeat the mistake of the 2017 polls when the party couldn't form the government emerging as the single largest party.

"This time we have adopted a strategy which is very complex and comprehensive. We are very confident that all our candidates are sticking together," said Congress leader on being asked about 2017 polls.

"...got strong response from other political parties who have fought against the BJP... confident of forming government tomorrow itself," he added.

Exit polls have predicted a hung Assembly in Goa, with the close contest between the BJP and Congress.

Assembly elections in Goa were held on February 14. The counting of votes will take place on March 10. **-ANI**

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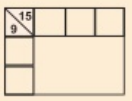
@BangaloreMirror

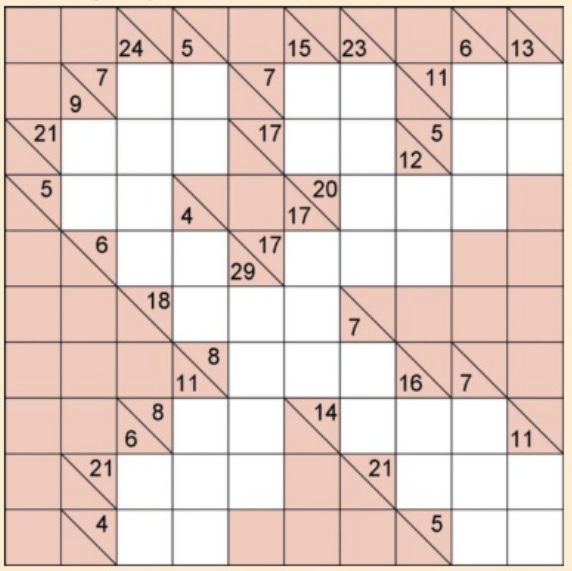
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

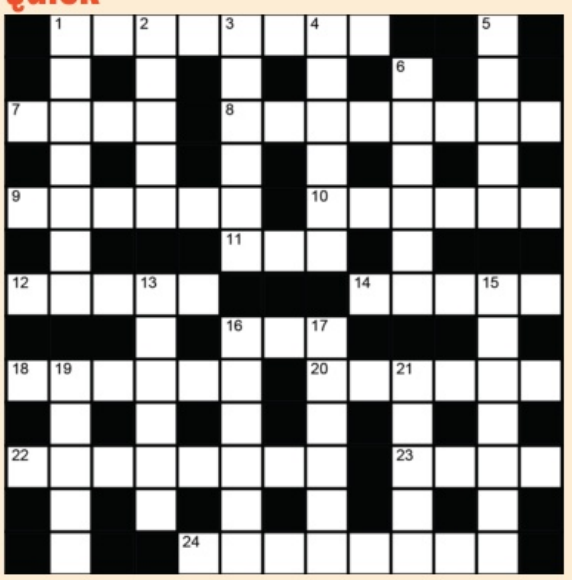


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Hatching a plot (8)
7 By mouth (4)
8 Tourist destination famous for white water rafting (8)
9 Julius, stabbed by Brutus (6)
10 A food store (6)
11 Bring to court (3)
12 Donkeys (5)
14 Closes or slams (5)
16 Tic ___ toe : children's game? (3)
18 A suddenly executed attempt to overthrow a government (6)
20 Divination or omen (6)
22 Check to ensure all are present (4-4)
23 Son of Seth (4)
24 Murder mystery (8)

DOWN

1 Move past (7)
2 Infernal places (5)
3 Builders or erectors (6)
4 Spry or agile (6)
5 Worth or evaluation (5)
6 Place of worship (6)
13 Tripods used by artists (6)
15 Number voting (7)
16 Utterly defeat (6)
17 Rang (6)
19 German submarine (1-4)
21 Gather facts bit by bit (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS P

PGIK FVYFXV MYAXT NYYIVH TJV SLGI SLJIZ; JI RGWS, SLVK TY NY.

Linemaro

Look, I like you already, what say we get to know each other?

Mindchow

Warning: Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear

Joke of the day

Just when you settle down with a hot cup of coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last till your coffee gets cold

Loop

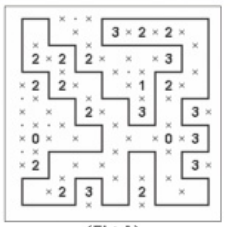
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

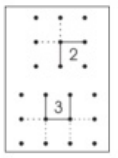
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

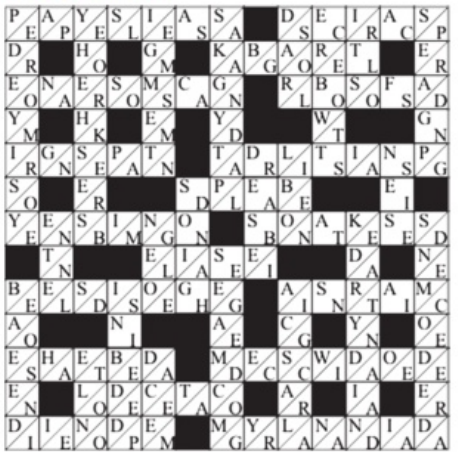


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3 F	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

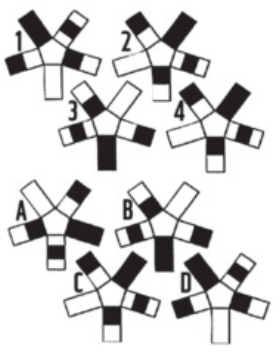
1 Al off; 6 On cur; 7 Grits; 8 Gel at; 9 Lloyd

DOWN

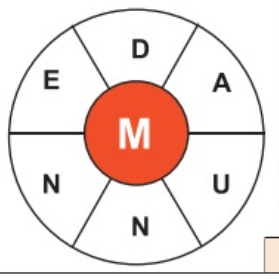
1 To cad; 2 Or Fog; 3 Ill Fr; 4 Glean; 5 Sly TU

Mensapuzzle

Which of the figures at the bottom – A, B, C or D – follows number 4?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

12 Average; **14** Good; **16** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			3			4		
	6			2		7		
	9	2	5					6
		3	2	6			4	5
2	1			8	5	9		
6					7	1	2	
		5		4			3	
		4			3			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6
3 3 8 8

Medium = 27
3 7 8 9

Hard = 3
3 5 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

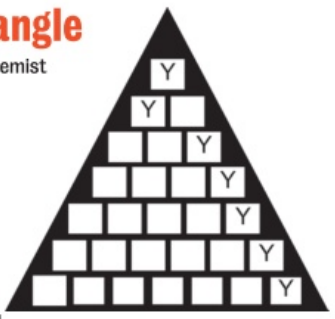
Differences: 1. Newspaper is longer. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Label is missing. 4. File cabinet is taller. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Jacket sleeve is shorter.

Riddler

A prisoner is told, "If you tell a lie we will hang you; if you tell the truth we will shoot you." What can he say to save himself?

Alpha triangle

1 Yttrium for the chemist
2 Yes, slang
3 A shaft of light
4 Salver
5 Watery-eyed
6 Down to basics
7 Fibrous



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

EVERY CHRISTMAS I GIT A BUNCH OF TOTALLY USELESS DANG PRESENTS!
LIKE WHAT, JERKYMIAH?
12-25
NECKTIES, SHAVING LOTION, SOAP AND BATH TOWELS!
Yates/Casson

Bizarrotrip

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Diamond Lil

I LUNCHED AT THAT NEW PLACE TODAY
IT'S CALLED THE SAFECRACKER CAFE
WHAT DID YOU HAVE?
A YEGG SALAD SANDWICH
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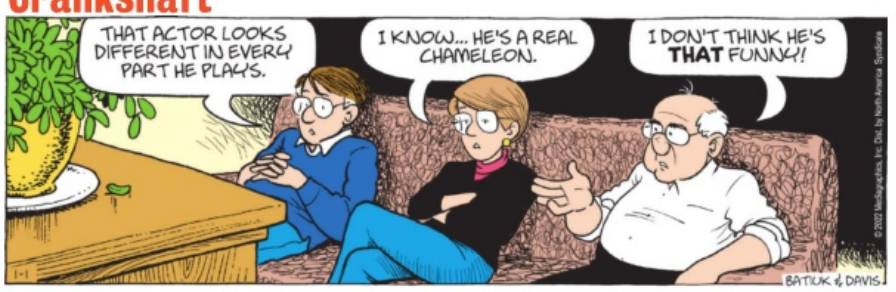
www.creators.com

Hart of the city

THERE'RE PLENTY OF WRITERS THAT ALSO ACT IN THEIR PLAYS AND MOVIES. WRITING CAN BE IN YOUR FUTURE!
THAT'S REALLY GOOD THINKING, CHARLOTTE.
WHEN I'M OLD ENOUGH TO HIRE AN AGENT, YOU'LL BE THE FIRST PERSON I CALL.
@COMICS.COM/HARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may buy some creative item or artefact to renovate your house which may increase your social status. You may implement some new plans for your family business; it will pay you in term of gains in the near future. You may also be busy in family or social get-togethers.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today will be a good day for you. You may have good vitality and health. You may enjoy your work. Today, will be your challenge to avoid straightforwardness. It is advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics; otherwise, there may be some disputes in the family. Job-seekers may find suitable a job. Lovebirds are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you will not be blessed by the moon. You may feel unhappy, you may become impatient today, you may find it difficult to perform your task and be unable to fulfil your desire. you want to be detached from the given responsibility. You may not be able to complete any task.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you will be blessed by moon. Work-related pressure may go off. Your earnings may convert into profits now. You are likely to invest for a long-term period. You may get an overseas work order, which may give you financial benefits in the coming future. You may find your soul-mate. Students may hear good news in terms of their academics.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you will be blessed by a positive moon; you may perform well on the professional front. You may implement your business plans very easily with the help of your subordinates. Intellectual investments and financial investments may start giving profits now which may increase confidence level. You may use your wisdom to gain benefits.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you will be blessed by moon. Your spiritual power may make you happy. Your way of thinking may be positive. You are inclined to spiritualism today. You may plan to visit some religious place. You may also take interest in occult science. It is advised to keep your views with you only; try to discuss with those who may understand your feelings, otherwise you may be a victim of conspiracy.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel dull; you may have lack of patience. For seeking peace, you may be attracted by occult, it is advised to follow your intuition before taking an important decision. With the help of meditation and mantras, you may get in-depth knowledge on a subject and focus on the subject.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you will be blessed by the moon, which may help you to improve your inner strength. You are likely to get some new opportunities for your business and work, which will pay you in terms of gains in near future. Couples may hear good news in terms of childbirth. Lovebirds are advised to be clear in their views with each other to maintain harmony in the relationship.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you will be blessed by the moon; messy things are now under control. Your performance may be praised by your boss and you are likely to get new responsibilities in terms of promotion. Money which was stuck is likely to be recovered now; it may help in the savings. You may hear some good news in terms of legal matters. Issues with siblings are likely to be resolved now.

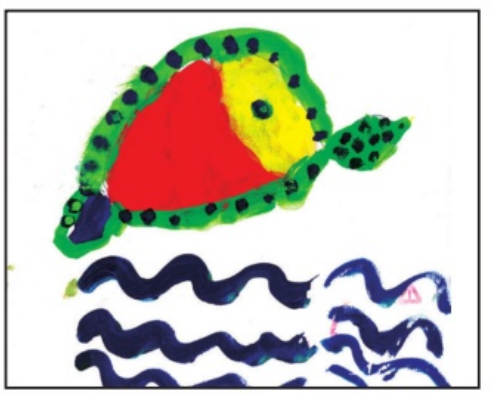
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may hear good news in terms of job. You may plan for higher studies to groom your career. You may also be busy in some motivational events. Singles may hear good news in terms of marriage. Couples may hear some good news in terms of childbirth.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may plan for a change in place; it is advised to postpone a decision related to migration. It is also advised to avoid investment in business. By late evening, situation may be under control. With the help of advice from one of your elders, you may control the messy situation.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may have a good patience; meditation may help you to increase concentration, which will speed up your project. Your subordinates may cooperate with you; it may help you to complete the project before time. There may be some short trips related to work. You may meet an influential person who may help you to boost your business.

KIDZONE

Dakshith, 10 years, Bengaluru



Srisha Bhatia, 6 years, DPS Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER You will hang me. If they hang him, then the statement was true and they could only hang him for telling a lie. If they shoot him, then it makes the statement a lie and they were only to shoot him for telling the truth. An alternate solution is to say, "You will not shoot me," leading to the same quandary for the killers.

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE D. They all rotate clockwise. First to the next vane, then missing one, then two and so on.

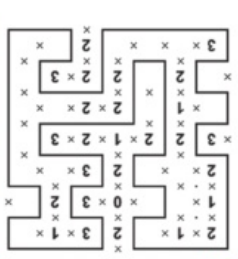
BULL'S EYE amen, amend, dame, damn, made, mane, manned, mean, men, MUNDANE, name, named, unmade, unman, UNNAMED

SUDOKU

8	5	7	3	1	6	4	9	2
3	6	1	9	2	4	7	5	8
4	9	2	5	7	8	3	1	6
9	7	3	2	6	1	8	4	5
5	4	8	7	3	9	2	6	1
2	1	6	4	8	5	9	7	3
6	3	9	8	5	7	1	2	4
7	8	5	6	9	3	2	4	1

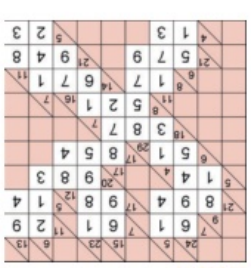
ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Y, Ray, Tray, Teary, Eartly, Thready.

LOOP



GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 8 – 8 + 3 = 6
Medium
3 + 7 + 9 + 8 = 27
Hard
5 + 4 – 8 x 3 = 3

KAKURO



FAST FIVE

O	F	F	A	L
C	O	R	N	U
T	R	I	G	S
A	G	L	E	T
D	O	L	L	Y

SOLVE IN 1M 8[(3^5-5^5)/3^3]=8^5=8^3125=25000

QUOTE UNCODE Many people would sooner die than think; in fact, they do so.

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Black Panther director mistaken for robber

'Black Panther' director, Ryan Coogler, who has been on the 'Time 100' list of the most influential people of 2018, was detained by the police in Atlanta in January after he was mistaken for a bank robber

BangaloreMirror | 12
Thursday, March 10, 2022
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

What's up, y'all?

Is latest rumoured couple on their way to make it official? Or are they taking their time...

Hrithik Roshan's recent dating rumours with Sada Azad has become the talk of the town ever since the two were spotted going out on dinner dates frequently. Things seem to be getting serious between them as Saba has now started meeting the 'War' actor's family as well.

While fans are wondering if Saba and Hrithik will be tying the knot soon, a close friend of the rumoured couple has now stepped up to spill the tea. During an interaction with India Today, the unnamed 'friend' has shared that Hrithik and Saba are quite into each other. While it's claimed that Hrithik's family has accepted Saba 'quite well', it seems like much like the actor, the Roshans are also quite fond of the singer's work now.

Saba recently joined Hrithik's uncle Rajesh Roshan, mother Pinkie, cousin Pashmina and his sons Hrehaan and Hridaan among others over lunch. Turns out, she arranged an impromptu singing session which was thoroughly enjoyed by the actor's family, shared the source.

Talking about the rumoured couple's future plans, the alleged friend also clarified that Hrithik and Saba who are currently together, don't want to rush into things so soon.

While a wedding is not on the cards right now for Hrithik and Saba, the two are surely sending their fans into a frenzy with their social media PDA. Recently Saba shared some stunning pictures of herself recreating Audrey Hepburn's look and captioned them. "You may call me Miss Hepburn Azad!! Outtakes from a shoot with @feminaindia where I got to play the inimitable Ms Hepburn for a day ."

It grabbed everyone's attention when Hrithik quickly praised the beauty in the comment section. He wrote, "Timeless" along with raising hands emoji.

On the work front, Hrithik will be next seen in 'Fighter' with Deepika Padukone and 'Vikram Vedha' co-starring with Saif Ali Khan.

— ETimes

Shruti on board for Chiranjeevi's next film

The makers of megastar Chiranjeevi's upcoming biggie 'Mega154' welcomed actress Shruti Haasan on board.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the makers made an official announcement regarding this. Welcoming the talented actress on board, the 'Indra' actor wrote, "On this Women's Day, delighted to Welcome you on board @shrutihaasan You bring Woman Power to #Mega154 @MythriOfficial @dirbobby #GKMohan @ThisIsDSP ," tweeted Chiranjeevi. 'Mega154' marks the first-time collaboration for both Shruti and Chiranjeevi. Billed to be a mass action drama, 'Mega154' is helmed by director Bobby (KS Ravindra).

The much-anticipated movie is produced on a massive scale by Tollywood's leading production house Mythri Movie Makers. It is reported that the movie is in the initial stages of production and will get on the floors soon.

Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar are producing the film, while GK Mohan is the co-producer.

—IANS

When misogyny was normal

Actor Cameron Diaz talks of the 90s when awareness on issue was low

Actor Cameron Diaz, known for her romantic roles in "The Mask", "My Best Friend's Wedding" and "There's Something About Mary", says she endured misogyny in Hollywood for years. The actor, who retired from acting in 2014, said misogyny was a normal aspect of the industry in the 1990s and 2000s.

"I certainly didn't do as much as could be done now because of the awareness of everybody, you know, sort of like the #MeToo," Diaz said during host and "RuPaul's Drag Race" judge Michelle Visage's "Rule Breakers" podcast on International Women's Day. "There were still parameters. The 1990s, the early aughts, there was still heavy, heavy misogyny. Just the level of exploitation of powers, it just laid on the entire industry. It was the normal thing to do sort of like (laugh) and just be able to get through unscathed."

The star said her choice of roles were not enough to break through the double standard of the industry. "Be the one who participated enough to make everybody feel taken care of but not to be a victim in that position. To know how to navigate the whole thing because it was happening all day, every day in every little feeling of layers of existence," Diaz recalled.

She also spoke about her call to step away from the limelight after film "Annie". "Fame is very infantilizing. It's very much about keeping somebody coddled in a state..."

—PTI

An exciting platform for Puja

Simmba' actress Puja Agarwal, who has been recently seen in the short film 'Mirror', says that OTT as a platform excites her and she would like to be part of more projects on OTT. "I have worked in a couple of short films. Recently, my film 'Mirror' got released. My focus is more on OTT. I feel a lot of amazing content is being made for various OTT platforms and I would love to be part of some. It's a medium which allows you to experiment as an actor," she says.

Ask her what is her favourite genre as an actor and a viewer, and she says: "I have been intrigued by the fantasy genre since childhood. I love magic, fairies, witches and the dreamy world."

Meanwhile, while work is important to Puja, so is relaxing and rejuvenating, she says.

"Spending quality time with family and friends and going on a solo vacation trip are some of the things I do to refresh myself. I have very few friends in life and they all are my family. While I have a diverse network of people I know, I feel a greater sense of belonging and well-being by nurturing close, meaningful relationships that will support me through thick and thin," she says.

—IANS

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Viral fever

These 10 pics took the internet by storm for their sheer glam factor!